

APPENDIX B

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET REGISTRATION SERVICE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council No. 596 Date MAY 9, 1988
Full name ERIC PATRICK "RICKY" AVANT
(no initials if you can possibly get full name)
Social Security Number [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City Virginia Bch. State Virginia ZIP Code 23464
Date of Birth 9-6-59 (This is important and should be exact.)
Approximate age N/A (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)
Religion UNKNOWN Nationality U.S. Citizen
Occupation COMPUTER OPERATOR
Education H.S. graduate - 2 yrs College
Weight 220 Height 6'1 Race Black
Color of hair Black Color of eyes Brown
Outstanding characteristics or interests None
Married or single Single Children N/A
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)
Spouse's name N/A
Scouting connections: Chartered organization Church of LDS
Unit No. 441 City VA Bch State VA Position WL Date registered '84 Date resigned '85
Special recognition None
Suspended or denied registration for following reasons: Child molestation

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, INCLUDING HOW THE INFORMATION CAME TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION, AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION):

Signed

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

Tideewater - 596

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 16 1988

F. STARON

JUL 0 1 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

11/28

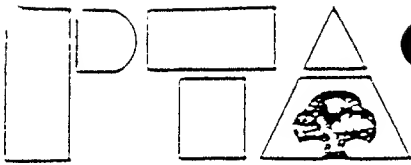
Paul Linet

Are you aware
of this?

DER

Handwritten notes:
- In
- TAKES TO DATE
- 11-2-82
- [unclear]
- [unclear]
- [unclear]

David J. Ross II
S212



Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers

Mrs. Dolores L. Delaney, President

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

State Office

Richmond, Virginia 23260

Phone: [REDACTED]

DATE: November 2, 1989
FROM: Dolores Delaney, President *AD*
TO: Local Unit Presidents
SUBJ: Boy Scouts of America

For a period of time, the State PTA has been the recipient of numerous requests for information and assistance in the matter of chartering/rechartering Boy Scout groups. In a spirit of organizational cooperation, the PTA has attempted to assist in the resolution of differences and has been in communication with National Boy Scouts in an attempt to resolve some of the problems encountered by local units in Virginia.

Local units have made repeated requests for a definitive statement as to whether or not they should sign charters for Boy Scout groups. Since the local units are autonomous bodies, the State PTA felt it could not direct their action despite repeated requests to do so. With the filing of a lawsuit in U.S. District Court on October 25 naming the BSA and the chartering organization (Mormon Church) as co-defendants in a suit for \$35 million, the Board of Managers took the following action:

In light of recent occurrences regarding the Boy Scouts of America, the Virginia PTA Board of Managers strongly urges local units to discontinue sponsorship of charters until such time as there is a resolution to the issue of liability for chartering organizations.

The goals of the Boy Scouts of America are much admired and respected and this action is in no way intended to suggest that we do not continue to support the goals of scouting. However, the first responsibility of the Virginia State PTA/PTSA is to its local units, councils and districts.

We look forward to a speedy resolution of the liability issue. We are also aware that scout units can self-charter and, upon applying for a "use of building" permit, may meet in schools as before. This action in no way jeopardizes the scouting program but does, we hope, provide some guidance and security for the local units of Virginia until such time as these differences are resolved.

Boy Scouts, Mormons face lawsuit over molestations

By Greg Raver-Lampman
Staff Writer

NORFOLK — The parents of two children who were sexually assaulted by a leader of a church-sponsored Cub Scout den sued the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon Church on Wednesday.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, claims that the church and the Boy Scouts failed to check the background of the troop leader, Eric Patrick "Ricky" Avant, who is serving 25 years in prison for molesting Scouts between the ages of 9 and 13.

The church and the Boy Scouts "had knowledge and notice of the potential for the Scouting program to attract persons who are predatory homosexuals and pedophiles because of the all-male and youthful composition of its participants," the lawsuit states.

They "had actual knowledge and notice of numerous and countless specific complaints, incidents, and events on a national basis of molestation of children within the Scouting program," said the suit, which seeks \$35 million.

The defendants apparently were unaware that Avant, who was with the Scouts between 1983 and March

1987, had been convicted in March 1979 of "a felony involving the carnal knowledge of a child," the suit claims.

Allegations about Avant were also overlooked, the suit states.

The church and the Boy Scouts "did in wrongful violation of their own internal rules and procedures, wrongfully, negligently, carelessly, and recklessly select, hire, employ, and retain Avant," it states.

Andrew M. Sacks, the attorney for the parents, said it was "tragic that organizations like the Boy Scouts and the Mormon Church have this kind of problem."

Although the lawsuit seeks \$35 million for the family, "The family is not unmindful of the fact that through their experience perhaps other families can be spared other tragedies."

To protect their identities, the children are referred to in the lawsuit only by their initials.

Wednesday's suit is the first to be filed concerning Avant's molestation of Scouts he supervised, Sacks said.

According to the lawsuit and court records, Avant, a 29-year-old computer operator, befriended boys through a Virginia Beach Mormon congregation and a Cub Scout. Webelos den it sponsored.

way to prison



Staff photo by CHARLES ME...

Eric Patrick Avant is escorted from Virginia Beach Circuit Court by sheriff's deputies Wednesday. "I thought it was a way of showing someone that you liked him," Avant said in court Wednesday of his sexual activities with boys.

Molester sentenced to 26 years

By Debbie Messina
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — In pleading for leniency Wednesday, Eric Patrick "Ricky" Avant said he thought his sexual activities with the boys in his Cub Scout den was an acceptable sign of affection.

"I thought it was a way of showing someone that you liked him," Avant testified during his sentencing in Circuit Court. "I didn't think it was a crime."

Avant, 28, was sentenced

Wednesday to 26 years in the state penitentiary for molesting nine boys between the ages of 9 and 13.

When the sentence was announced, several of the boys' mothers burst into tears and their husbands mumbled words of disbelief.

"He's fooled everybody," one mother said. "The only way true justice will be served is if something happens to him in prison. I know it sounds harsh, but I can't help it."

Another parent was just relieved that the ordeal was over

and his son could resume his life. "At least my son won't have to keep looking over his shoulder for (Avant)," he said. "He's finally behind bars, for a little while at least."

Judge Austin E. Owen ordered that Avant spend two years in prison for each of 12 counts of aggravated sexual battery and one year each for two counts of indecent liberties. He had pleaded guilty Jan. 27.

Avant, a computer operator who befriended the boys through a Virginia Beach church and a Webelos

den it sponsored, faced a maximum sentence of 250 years in prison.

"I cannot overlook the fact that prior attempts to change the defendant's behavior through counseling has not been successful," Owen said. "The interest of the community must prevail over those of the defendant."

Avant and his attorney, Arthur A. Lovisi, pleaded with the court to keep Avant out of the state prison.

Please see **MOLESTER**, Page 1

MOLESTER

continued from Page D1

ons and instead allow him to serve his time in the city jail. They feared Avant would be killed by prisoners because he is a child molester.

"In effect, it's a death sentence or worse," Lovisi said.

But Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney George H. Yates argued that Avant has been given two breaks already and that alternative methods to imprisonment have failed to rehabilitate him.

Avant was charged with sodomy in 1979. Under a plea agreement, he was convicted of crimes against nature and was placed on probation. Then in 1986, the parents of one of Avant's victims said they would not prosecute as long as Avant sought psychiatric help.

Avant has been under the care of two mental health professionals in the past 10 years.

Since his last court appearance, an additional count of aggravated sexual battery involving another boy was brought against Avant — boosting the total number of charges to 14.

"I have to respect Judge Owen's intelligence and ability," Lovisi said after the sentencing. "But I am concerned about Mr. Avant's personal safety."

Yates said 26 years was an appropriate sentence; he was expecting three years on each count. "I know there are people in the community who think he should be locked up forever," he said. "But these offenses in and of themselves are not as serious as some."

The parents of Avant's victims were outraged.

"This sends a real good sign to the youth of our community," said a parent of two of the victims. "Maybe he would have gotten more time if the others decided to prosecute."

The families who initiated prosecution said they had cooperated with police in compiling a list of 41 victims from the Webelos den and church. Many of those families did not prosecute, Yates said.

The victims' parents tell stories of how their boys are afraid and distrustful of everyone, of how they are filled with anger and how the incidents have alienated them from their families and their school work.

During the sentencing, prosecution portrayed Avant to be a sly con man who would win the confidence of churchgoing people, then take advantage of that trust to get to their young boys.

The defense painted a picture of a good man's confused intentions, of a victim of sexual abuse as a child who wants to rehabilitate himself and make restitution to his victims.

But the victims are merciless, Lovisi contended: "There is almost a sense of revenge, and that disturbs me."

Two of four witnesses who testified on behalf of Avant were parents of boys who were molested by Avant but who chose not to prosecute.

"I know there are different ways to approach this," one mother said. "We did not join in the prosecution. . . . I think he should have a chance to make his life right."

Avant testified that he only recently learned that his actions were wrong. He said that during his years of counseling, he had never discussed his sexual activities and whether they were criminal.

"If you look out in the courtroom, you would see what would normally constitute my annual Christmas party at my house," Avant said. "In a matter of months, a lot of people I cared about are no longer in my life."

"All I've ever wanted to do was help other people."



CO
596

TIDEWATER COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Norfolk, Virginia 23517-2390

March 28, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst
Director of Registration
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

CONFIDENTIAL: Eric Patrick "Ricky" Avant

Dear Paul:

Attached are news clippings regarding the conviction of Eric Patrick "Ricky" Avant for child molesting. While he is not currently registered, he was at one time. I believe that you have earlier documentation. Let me know if you need additional facts.

Sincerely,

Bob Cree
Bob Cree
Scout Executive

BC/ch

cc: Adrian Cronk

*→ We have
received nothing.*

*Could locate no registration
Added to CF file
4/5/88*



CONF022472

July 6, 1988

Robert W. Cree
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Erick Patrick "Ricky" Avant

Dear Bob:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

pam

cc: Southeast Region

READY TO FILE
JUL 7 1988
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF022473

May 10, 1988

Mr. Robert H. Cree
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Erick Patrick "Ricky" Avant

Dear Bob:

I appreciate the material which you previously sent us concerning the above named individual. I believe we have everything we need except for a Confidential Record sheet which we would like to have completed with as much information as you have available. We would also like to have a copy of a document with his signature, if this is available, as this aids in the identification process.

If any other material comes to your attention which you feel would be helpful to us, please do not hesitate to forward it. We want to have a file which will be strong enough to refuse registration anywhere Mr. Avant might move and try to register.

Thanks for your help in completing the file.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

eko

cc: Southeast Region

READY TO FILE

MAY 10 1988

ERIN O'RILEY

CONF022474

April 6, 1988

Robert W. Cree
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Erick Patrick "Ricky" Avant

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of March 28 concerning the above named individual. I appreciate the newspaper clipping which gives us the final conviction and sentencing.

I do not seem to find any information in our file from an earlier communication. By any chance, was his named spelled differently?

Please send us a Confidential Record Sheet which is completed with as much information as possible. This will aid in the identification process. We have enclosed a form for your use. We would also like a copy of a document with his signature, if available.

If you have any material which you feel will be helpful to us, please don't hesitate to send it. This will strengthen our file which will lead to refusal of registration should it be attempted be made at any time in any location.

Thank for your help in protecting the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

mdw

cc: Southeast Region

READY TO FILE
APR 07 1988
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF022475

10/26/89

Paul Moore, Area Director, S.C.R.
is faxing suit paper
LGI Church

namely BLN

Adviser Council

62-08-596

W. Robert Cree, S.C.

35 mil demand

perpetrator, alleged - arrested on 13 counts &
Eric Avant

S.C. was approached by news media yesterday afternoon,
refusing to be interviewed.

Moore is now contacting Adkins.

J.

F.I.I.

RECEIVED
OCT 26 1989
DAVID K. PARK